Early in May we got out the calendar to plan our summer schedule. With the end of the school year in Mexico the last week of June we agreed to close from June 21 – July 3. It was actually a shorter vacation than other years but nonetheless, several of our clinic regulars were disappointed that we were taking a break at all. “I’ll just stay at home and cry,” said Sandra, Conchita’s mother and one of our therapists. She was absolutely serious as she continued, “I really miss seeing everyone. I feel so alone when we don’t have clinic because this is really my home.” In a nutshell, that describes the experience for many of the women of the Santo Niño Project.

Joshua, the child with spina bifida who was featured in last month’s newsletter, has seen Dr. Jacob Heydemann, an El Paso orthopedic surgeon provides consultations in Juárez once a month for needy children. Our social worker Cristina is working with the doctor’s office staff to arrange surgery (pro bono) at Providence Hospital that will hopefully allow Joshua to walk. There is an incredible amount of paperwork to make this happen but as we say, “Vale la pena!” (translation: It’s worth the effort!)

We had a graduation last week! Bryan de Jesus finished primary school and will begin middle school in August. Sister Carol, Cristina and Reyna attended the ceremony that included a song performed by each grade level. Bryan has been coming to the clinic since he was five years old. He wasn’t allowed to go to kindergarten because he was still in diapers, though his incontinence is due to spinal cord damage. We’ve been supplying him with pull-on dispos-